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KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st 1941.

Dr.D.F.Dobson, M.B. D.P.H.
Medical Officer
of Health.

Report of Medical Officer of Health for Year ended December 31st 1941.

To the Chairman & Members of the Knaresborough Urban District Council.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, this Annual Report is brief and confined to changes in the conditions affecting the health of the Town and to any special occurrence of dissase.

I am, Ladies, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D.F.Dobson. (M.B. D.P.H.)

Medical Officer of Health.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population for 1941 is 8,132. To this must be added a number of evacuated persons and workers temporarily residing in the Town.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births numbered 133, giving a birthrate of 16.3 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths numbered 109, giving a deathrate of 13.4 per 1,000 of the population.

The infantile deathrate under one year of age was 28.3 per 1,000 live births.

EVACUATION.

Many of the mothers and children evacuated to Knaresborough have returned to their homes, approximately half of the remaining persons were living in houses assigned to them, the other half remaining in private billets. The sanitary difficulties associated with evacuation have become progressively less.

The two Hostels provided by the Ministry of Health have continued in being but the children treated in them have been almost entirely from other areas.

HOUSING.

There is still some overcrowding in the Town which is regarded as inevitable and in many instances two or more families are residing in one house due to the general housing shortage.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Infectious disease has again been prevelant during the Year.

Fifty one cases of measles and fifty four cases of whooping cough occurred mainly in the early months: there were no deaths from these diseases.

There have been no cases of poliomyelitis or cerebro-spinal fever.

There were eleven cases of scarlet fever and thirty cases of diphtheria. The cases of diphtheria occured mainly in the same months and there were two deaths.

Systematic immunisation against diphtheria was commenced during the year the results were satisfactory and it is expected to reach a high level of immunisation ultimately.

There was a definite increase in the notification of tuberculosis which has not showed in the previous war years.

Scabies was again widespread and from the little information which is available appears to be increasing rather than diminishing.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

There are no great changes to report. The calling up of many members has led to some difficulties but a sufficient number of volunteers have been available and new ones have been trained.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The works of alteration carried out in 1940 have had a definite improvement on the effluent of the works.

SCOTTON MOOR DRAINAGE.

Steps are being taken to overcome the difficulty of drainage in the Scotton Banks area and it is hoped that at some future date permanent measures will be taken to instal an adequate sewerage system for the whole of this area.

GENERAL.

Sanitary inspection of the District is carried out fairly well in spite of difficulties due to additional work and on the whole the sanitary circumstances are satisfactory.

Assistance in meat inspection was given by the Sanitary Inspector to the Harrogate Borough at the Central Abbatoir of the Ministry of Food which is situate in Harrogate.

D.F.Dobson.

Medical Officer of Health.